

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & WELFARE
DIVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH



2017 IDAHO SCHOOL IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENTS EXEMPTION

1. Why is there a new version of the school immunization exemption form?

During the 2017 Idaho Legislative session the Senate Health and Welfare Committee requested that the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare simplify the 2012 Idaho Certificate of Immunization Exemption form.

2. When will the 2017 version of the school immunization exemption form be available for school use?

The 2017 version of the form will be available for schools to use beginning June 2017.

3. Do parents need to complete the 2017 immunization exemption form if they have already submitted the 2012 form exempting their children from immunizations?

No. If the student already has the 2012 exemption form on file at your school prior to June 2017, then parents do not need to resubmit the 2017 version of the form.

4. Are schools required to use the 2017 Idaho School Immunization Requirements Exemption form?

Per IDAPA 16.02.15, exemptions to immunization requirements are to be on a form provided by the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare. Beginning June 2017, the 2017 Idaho School Immunization Requirements Exemption form will be available online at www.ImmunizeIdahoSchools.com.

5. If my school chooses, can we require that parents fill out the 2012 immunization exemption form instead of the 2017 exemption form?

The school has the authority to make this decision. IDAPA 16.02.15 states that schools need documentation for exemptions to immunization requirements on a form provided by the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare. After June 2017, only the 2017 version of the exemption form will be available online at www.ImmunizeIdahoSchools.com.

6. The 2017 Idaho School Immunization Requirements Exemption form does not include information about vaccine-preventable diseases. Are schools required to provide information to parents about vaccine-preventable diseases when parents choose to exempt their children from school vaccinations?

No, schools are not required by IDAPA 16.02.15 to provide information about vaccine- preventable diseases; however, the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare recommends utilizing the “Why Immunize?” school immunization factsheet as a parent education tool. The factsheet can be found at www.ImmunizeIdahoSchools.com.

7. Is the exemption form considered valid if it is not completed in its entirety or if sections are crossed off?

A school can do their best to complete sections of the form as needed to determine the immunization status of a child. If missing information or crossed off words prevent school staff from determining the immunization status of a child, then it may be assumed that the child is exempt from all vaccinations.

8. The parent will only write the date of birth and not the name of the child on the exemption form. Can I write the child's name on the form to keep for my records?

Yes, it is recommended that a school write the name of the child on the form, as the exemption form serves to help schools quickly identify the immunization status of exempted students in the event of a disease outbreak.

9. What do I do if a parent refuses to sign the exemption form? Do I need to keep the child out of school?

The school has the authority to make this decision. IDAPA 16.02.15 states that schools need documentation for exemptions to immunization requirements on a form provided by the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare.

10. Can private schools legally exclude students who are not immunized?

A private school may exclude a student who has not submitted an immunization record or an exemption pursuant to IDAPA 16.02.15.110.02. Students with an immunization exemption on file may also be excluded during a disease outbreak. Please refer to your school's admission policy for immunization exemption concerns not directly addressed in IDAPA 16.02.15.

11. Do I need to print the exemption form out for the parent, or is it the parent's responsibility to present the exemption form to the school?

The parent, custodian, or guardian of any child who is to attend public, private, or parochial school in Idaho is responsible for providing evidence of the child's immunization status before their child attends school per IDAPA 16.02.15.

12. When a parent presents a medical exemption or other immunization document to the school requiring a physician's signature, does the term "licensed physician" only refer to the MD title in Idaho? Can it apply to other titles, such as NP, PA or chiropractor?

Only a licensed medical doctor or osteopath can sign for these documents. For the definition of a physician, please refer to page 3 of IDAPA 16.02.15.

PLEASE NOTE:

Per IDAPA 16.02.15 "The Idaho Legislature has granted to the Board of Health and Welfare, in cooperation with the State Board of Education and the Idaho School Boards Association, the authority to adopt rules for the administration and enforcement of an immunization program for Idaho school children, under Section 39-4801, Idaho Code."

Unless otherwise specified in IDAPA 16.02.15, this frequently asked questions document serves to assist schools with exemption form guidance based on recommendations from the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare. For additional immunization guidance not specified in IDAPA 16.02.15, please refer to your school's immunization policy.



Contact the Idaho Immunization Program at (208) 334-6994 or visit [ImmunizeIdahoSchools.com](https://immunizeidaho.com).
